

Discovery Guide to Southern Arizona Attractions

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument was established in 1937 to preserve a representative sample of the Sonoran Desert ecosystem. Here you will find a variety of cactus like no other in the USA. Organ pipe grows only here and is "second only to the mighty saguaro" in stature. Here you will also find typical Basin-and-Range topography of isolated mountain ranges separated by wide, shallow valleys. The Ajo Mountains are spectacular for their colorful alternating bands of dark lava and cream colored volcanic tuff. You will see a great variety of plants that determine the Sonoran Desert is a tropical desert. A variety of typical desert animals inhabit an equal variety of desert landscapes ranging from low valleys to mountain tops at 4800 ft.

Activities include scenic driving, hiking, camping, photography, birding and wildlife watching.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Location: On AZ Hwy #85, 34 miles south of Ajo
Hours: Kris Eggle Visitor Center open daily 8 am – 5pm. Closed on federal holidays Memorial Day to Christmas Day. Remainder of the monument open 24 hours.

Admission: \$8 per vehicle per week; \$4 for pedestrian or bicyclist. America the Beautiful Annual Pass, Golden Age/Senior, Golden Access/Access passes and Organ Pipe Cactus Annual pass are honored and are available for purchase.

Discounts/Coupons: N/A. Gift shop discounts are available to members of cooperating associations.

Guided Tours: Ranger programs presented mid-December through mid-April. Check at the visitor center for posted schedule of events. Patio talks, guided hikes, van tours, evening campground programs.

Memberships: N/A

Food Facilities: Nearest restaurants are in Lukeville, 5 miles south of the visitor center, or in Ajo, 35 miles north.

Gift Shop: Yes.

Handicapped Access: Kris Eggle Visitor Center, restrooms and picnic area are accessible with assistance. Restroom facilities on scenic drives are accessible with assistance. Twin Peaks Campground has accessible sites.

Attraction Info Line: (520) 387-6849, extension 7302

Fax line: (520) 387-7475

Camping Facilities: Twin Peaks Campground open all year. \$12 per site per night plus weekly vehicle entrance fee. Golden Age/Senior and Access pass discounts are honored. Self-registration available during off season when campground entrance

station is not staffed. Tents, pickups, camper vans, RVs up to 40 ft in length. Dry camping, no hookups. Generator hours 8-10 am and 4-6 pm only.

Website: www.nps.gov/orpi

YEARLY EVENT CALENDAR:

Holiday Open House – 2nd Saturday in December, 1 -3:30 pm at Kris Eggle Visitor Center. Entertainment, refreshments, 15% off most bookstore merchandise.

Season of Tradition – Each weekend in March at Kris Eggle Visitor Center. Selected members of the Tohono O'odham Nation and others present cultural demonstrations of basketry, pottery, dry land farming, storytelling, native plant use, etc. Demonstrations change daily. Open 10 am - 4 pm. Free.

DIRECTIONS: From Tucson, travel west on AZ Hwy #86 to the community of Why, then turn left onto AZ Hwy #85. Continue south to mile 75.2 and the Kris Eggle Visitor Center. Allow 2½ - 3 hours travel time from Tucson.